

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BONN 14729 01 OF 02 111450Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11 NIC-01 SIL-01 LAB-06

EPA-04 CEQ-02 CU-04 DRC-01 /177 W

----- 074993

R 111302Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7960

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BONN 14729 01 OF 02 111450Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BONN 14729

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW, UR

SUBJECT: GERMAN DGB-SOVIET AUCCTU TALKS

REF: BONN 13805

1. SUMMARY. DURING THE PAST 3 WEEKS, DGB PRESIDENT HEINZ OSKAR VETTER AND HIGH LEVEL DGB DELEGATIONS HAVE VISITED MOSCOW, WARSAW AND PRAGUE. SO FAR THE DGB HAS NOT COMMENTED ON THE VETTER/SHELEPIN COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED BY TRUD ON SEPTEMBER 29 (SEE FBIS OCTOBER 4). RELIABLE SOURCES INDICATE VETTER AND SHELEPIN AGREED TO A CONTINUED BROAD SCOPE DGB AND AUCCTU EXCHANGE PROGRAM, TO CONSIDER EUROPEAN LABOR POLICY AT THE JANUARY ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND TO A SHELEPIN VISIT IN THE FRG IN SPRING 74. SHELEPIN GAVE VETTER AND THE DGB DELEGATION RED CARPET TREATMENT. SOME GERMAN SOURCES INTERPRET THE SHELEPIN EFFORTS AS PART OF A SOVIET MOVE TO GAIN CREDIBILITY AMONG TRADE UNIONS IN WEST EUROPE FOR THE SOVIET DETENTE POLICY AND TO USE INCREASED CONTACTS WITH THE DGB AND WESTERN TRADE UNIONS AS A RESPONSE TO WESTERN INSISTENCE ON MORE FREEDOM OF EXCHANGE OF PEOPLE AND IDEAS IN THE CSCE. END SUMMARY.

2. RELIABLE SOURCES INDICATED TO EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE THAT VETTER AND SHELEPIN AGREED TO A CONTINUED BROAD SCOPE DGB/AUCCTU EXCHANGE INCLUDING TWO-WAY EXCHANGES ON TECHNICAL LABOR SUBJECTS, EXCHANGE OF LECTURERS AT TRADE UNION SCHOOLS AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE INCLUDING SOVIET MUSICIANS AND DANCE GROUPS APPEARING AT THE DGB-SPONSORED RUHR CULTURAL FESTIVAL. ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION, THE DGB ALLEGEDLY RESISTED SOVIET PRESSURE AND MAINTAINED FIRMLY A NON-COMMITTAL POSITION. ON THE JANUARY ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE, THE DGB ALSO RESISTED ANY AGREEMENT ON AGENDA OR ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THIS EAST-WEST MEETING. AT THE MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE, SHELEPIN ALLEGEDLY REFLECTED THIS VIEW THAT THE DGB AND THE AUCCTU HAD NOT JOINTLY AGREED TO POLICIES AND AGENDA ITEMS AT THE CONFERENCE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BONN 14729 01 OF 02 111450Z

3. GERMAN SOURCES ALSO INDICATE THAT SHELEPIN GAVE VETTER AND THE DGB RED CARPET TREATMENT AND THAT THE DGB/AUCCTU RECEIVED UNUSUAL PRESS COVERAGE IN THE SEPTEMBER 29 TRUD. SHELEPIN MADE AN UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCE AT A LUNCHEON AND SEEMED MORE RESPONSIVE TO COMPROMISE ON VARIOUS POINTS VETTER INSISTED ON. IN THE FRG, THE CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPERS FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE AND DIE WELT REACTED TO VISIT AND THE DEMONSTRATIVE RECEPTION OF VETTER BY SHELEPIN WITH SHARPLY CRITICAL EDITORIALS

HEADLINED "THE BROTHERLY KISS",
"CONTACTS FOR WHAT?" AND "VETTER'S ASSOCIATIONS".

4. SOME GERMAN OBSERVERS INTERPRET THE SHELEPIN EFFORTS AS AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN CREDIBILITY FOR THE SOVIET DETENTE POLICY AMONG WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS. THE SOVIETS MAY BE TRYING TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR A RESPONSE TO WESTERN INSISTENCE FOR MORE FREEDOM FOR EXCHANGE OF PEOPLE AND IDEAS BY A CONSCIOUS ATTEMPT TO CHANNEL SUCH CONTACTS THROUGH SOVIET TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS.

5. IN PRESS INTERVIEWS, VETTER AND SHELEPIN IN MOSCOW AND VETTER IN THE FRG REFLECTED THE FOLLOWING VIEWS:
A. ON SOVIET AUCCTU-GERMAN DGB RELATIONS: IN THE INTERESTS OF DETENTE, RELATIONS HAD "DEVELOPED SUCCESSFULLY."
VETTER AND SHELEPIN SAID THEY HAD DISCUSSED BILATERAL PROBLEMS AND TRADE UNION POLICY IN EUROPE AND "SEE REAL POSSIBILITIES FOR A BROADER COOPERATION IN PROTECTING WORKER INTERESTS" AND "WILL TRY TO DEVELOP JOINT ACTIONS." DESPITE IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES, THERE ARE COMMON GOALS AND MUTUAL VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF FOREIGN POLICY AND TRADE UNION ISSUES, E.G. ON DETENTE EFFORTS, EUROPEAN SECURITY, IMPROVING LIVING STANDARDS AND THE DEFENSE OF WORKERS' LEGITIMATE INTERESTS AND DEMANDS. THE 1974 EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN THE AUCCTU AND THE DGB PROVIDES FOR JOINT SEMINARS, CONSULTATIONS, EXCHANGE OF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BONN 14729 02 OF 02 111541Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11 NIC-01 SIL-01 LAB-06

EPA-04 CEQ-02 CU-04 DRC-01 /177 W

----- 075591

R 111302Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7961

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BONN 14729 02 OF 02 111541Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BONN 14729

INFORMATION, STUDY OF SPECIFIC TRADE UNION PROBLEMS SUCH AS
NEGATIVE INFLUENCES ON THE WORKING CLASS, ENVIRONMENT
PROTECTION AND CODETERMINATION, DGB STUDY OF INDUSTRIAL
DEMOCRACY IN THE SOVIET UNION AND SOVIET
LECTURERS AT DGB SCHOOLS ON SOVIET UNION SOCIAL CONDITIONS.
THERE IS A GREAT NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT TRADE UNIONS IN EAST
EUROPE AND THIS NEED WILL BE SATISFIED BY EXCHANGES AND EXCHANGES
OF LECTURERS, VETTER SAID. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT THE DEVELOP-
ING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WOULD BE STRAINED IF "ONE PARTY SOUGHT TO
UNDERMINE THE OTHER AND THAT HONORABLE INTENSIONS ARE THE BASIS
OF OUR RELATIONS."

B. ON SHELEPIN'S VISIT TO THE FRG: SHELEPIN ACCEPTED VETTER'S
INVITATION TO COME TO THE FRG IN SPRING 1974.

C. ON THE JANUARY 1974 ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE:
EAST AND WEST TRADE UNION LEADERS WILL CONSIDER POSSIBILITIES
OF ALL-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION COOPERATION. SHELEPIN STRESSED
THE NEED TO DEVELOP JOINT POLICIES AT THIS MEETING.

D. ON LABOR INFLUENCE ON THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPER-

ATION: PROSPECTS ARE GOOD FOR INCREASING ALL- EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INFLUENCE ON THE CSCE.

E. ON CHILE: THE AUCCTU AND THE DGB JOINTLY PROTEST THE OVERTHROW OF THE LEGALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF CHILE BY A MILITARY JUNTA AND THE KILLING OF PRESIDENT ALLENDE AND CALL FOR THE RESTORATION OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY AND FREEING THE CHILEAN TRADE UNION FROM INTERVENTION. LATER IN THE FRG, VETTER OPPOSED RECOGNITION OF THE NEW CHILEAN GOVERNMENT.

F. ON CREATING AN ALL-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION: SHELEPIN SAID HE IS AN OPTIMIST BUT ALSO A REALIST; NOW CONDITIONS FOR SUCH UNITY ARE NOT FAVORABLE. HOWEVER, POSSIBILITIES FOR JOINT ACTION ON SPECIFIC ISSUES EXIST. IN THE LONG RUN POSSIBILITIES FOR AN ALL-EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION EXIST.

G. ON DEVELOPING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE EAST EUROPEAN COMECON: IN MOSCOW THIS ISSUE WASN'T LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BONN 14729 02 OF 02 111541Z

DISCUSSED BUT IT MAY BE ON THE AGENDA OF THE JANUARY ILO EUROPEAN CONFERENCE.

H. ON INDEPENDENCE OF SOVIET LABOR UNIONS: IN HIS DUESSELDORF PRESS CONFERENCE, VETTER INDICATED THE ROLE OF SOVIET TRADE UNIONS HAS CHANGED AND REJECTED THE IDEA THAT SOVIET UNIONS SIMPLY CARRY OUT COMMUNIST PARTY ORDERS. INSTEAD A SYSTEM OF FACTORY DEMOCRACY IS PRACTICED IN THE SOVIET UNION WITH LOCAL UNIONS COOPERATING IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC PLAN OBJECTIVES AND INFLUENCING ECONOMIC PLANNING. THERE ARE CERTAIN IDEAS WORTH CONSIDERATION BY GERMAN UNIONS, VETTER SAID.

6. COMMENT. SOME LEADING DGB UNION PRESIDENTS HAVE INDICATED TO THE LABOR ATTACHE SOME UNEASINESS ABOUT THE EXTENT OF THESE EXCHANGES. ONE RESULT OF THE LAST MOSCOW MEETING IS THE JOINT STATEMENT OF THE AUCCTU AND THE DGB ON CHILE WHICH IS UNUSUAL. ALTHOUGH THE DGB HAS CRITICIZED RIGHT-WING REGIMES IN THE PAST, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THERE HAS BEEN A JOINT DGB STATEMENT WITH AN EAST EUROPEAN UNION ORGANIZATION ON AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE LIKE THE PRESENT SITUATION IN CHILE. ALTHOUGH THE VETTER PRESS STATEMENTS ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF SOVIET LABOR UNIONS MIGHT CREATE CONFUSION ABOUT VIOLATIONS OF ILO CONVENTIONS 87 AND 98 ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION, DGB SOURCES STILL CLAIM THAT ITS PAST POSITION OF SUPPORT OF ICFTU POLICIES IN THE ILO ON THE FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION ISSUE CONTINUES IN FORCE. END COMMENTHILLENBRAND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN14729
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731039/aaaabcor.tel
Line Count: 273
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BONN 13805
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GERMAN DGB-SOVIET AUCCTU TALKS
TAGS: ELAB, GE, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005